

HERISSART'S

MODERN

CHRONICLES.

Told & Pictured

by

Harriet Gould





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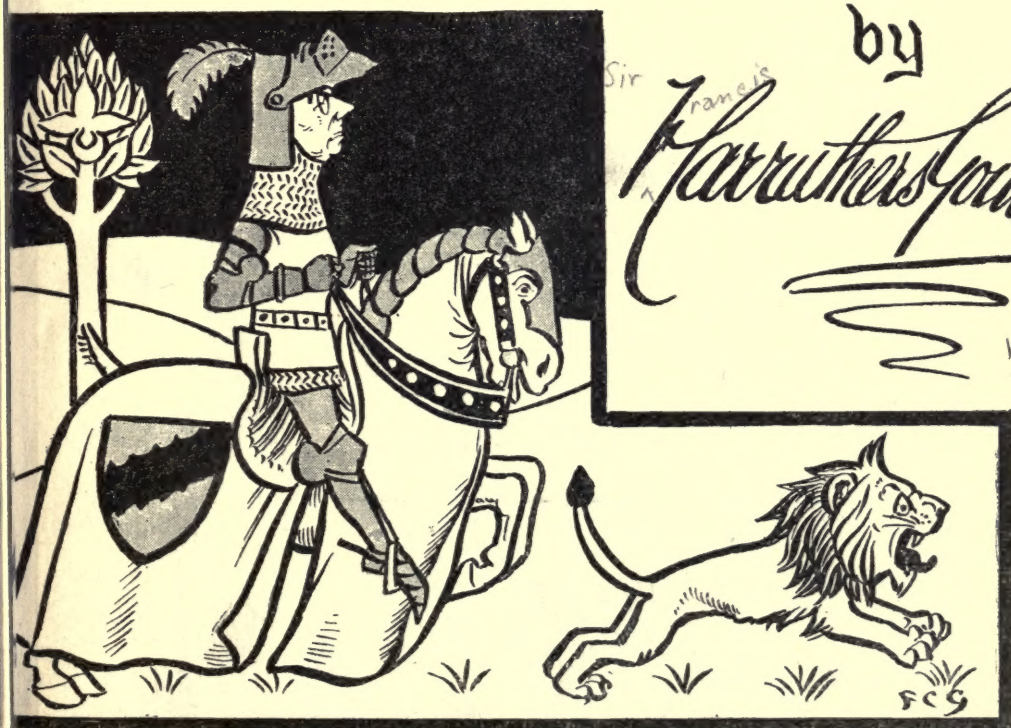
FROISSART'S MODERN CHRONICLES.

Told & Pictured

by

Sir Francis
Maxwell Lytton

187629
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BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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Edward Plumb
Apr: 02

Dedicated

TO

LADY DOROTHY NEVILL.

INTRODUCTION

I HAVE endeavoured in this little book to chronicle the political history of the last sixteen years in the spirit and language of Sir John Froissart, as if the events recorded had happened in the fourteenth instead of in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For this purpose I have used as my models both Johnes's and Berners's translations from the original text. In the latter respect I am greatly indebted to Mr. Henry Newbolt for his "*Froissart in Britain*." So strangely does history often repeat itself that I have been able here and there to transcribe passages of Lord Berners's translation almost verbatim into my text. That in such cases I have not used quotation marks I may be allowed to excuse myself on the plea of a literary license which adds, perhaps artfully, to artistic effect. I have also indulged in some license with regard to

Introduction

one or two facts of history. It is true that Mr. Chamberlain did not keep vigil in the chapel of Hatfield; that Lord Rosebery did not ride to Westminster on Ladas after Mr. Gladstone's resignation of the Premiership; and that the Liberal leaders did not actually go to sea in a ship. But these are versions of facts such as Froissart might have conceived had he himself collected the gossip on which to found the chronicles of modern events. With regard to these pictorial distortions, to use the words of Lord Berners, "I remit the correction thereof to them that discreetly find any reasonable default."

F. CARRUTHERS GOULD.

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PROLOGUE

*Here speaketh the author of such matters as are to be made mention
of in this book.*

THAT the truth of history may be apparent, and that the events, enterprises, commotions, and deeds of arms which have happened or been performed in England of late years may be held in perpetual remembrance, I, Sir John Froissart, sit down to relate the things which have been told to me at various times by those having full knowledge thereof. For whereas many personages have written of these matters without knowing anything of them, or being able to assign the proper reasons for them, I, having perceived the right foundation of the affairs, shall neither add to nor omit the truth ; neither shall I forget, corrupt, nor abridge my history, but the rather will enlarge it so that all who are inspired

Prologue

with sense and sound understanding may derive pleasure and instruction from my work, and that I may fall into their good graces.

The true reason of my undertaking this book was for my amusement, to which I have ever been inclined, and for which I have frequented the company of divers noblemen and privy councillors, as well in England as in Scotland and Ireland. And perhaps as this book is neither so exactly nor so well written as such events as I shall record require I pray to be excused if I have done injustice to any of the noble lords, privy councillors, and gentlemen of Parliament mentioned therein.

CHAPTER I

Of the discontent of Ireland and how an Irish chieftain would not wear English breeches.

THE better to understand the eventful commotions and the fierce disputes of parties in England, I will now proceed to relate how the matter of the governing of Ireland brought about great troubles and difficulties. You must know that the Irish had not been contented with the English rule within the memory of man, complaining that the English lords treated them as if they were slaves, and scorned to understand their manners and customs. They also said that they were cruelly oppressed by the lords of the land, whose fathers had stolen the land from their fathers, and



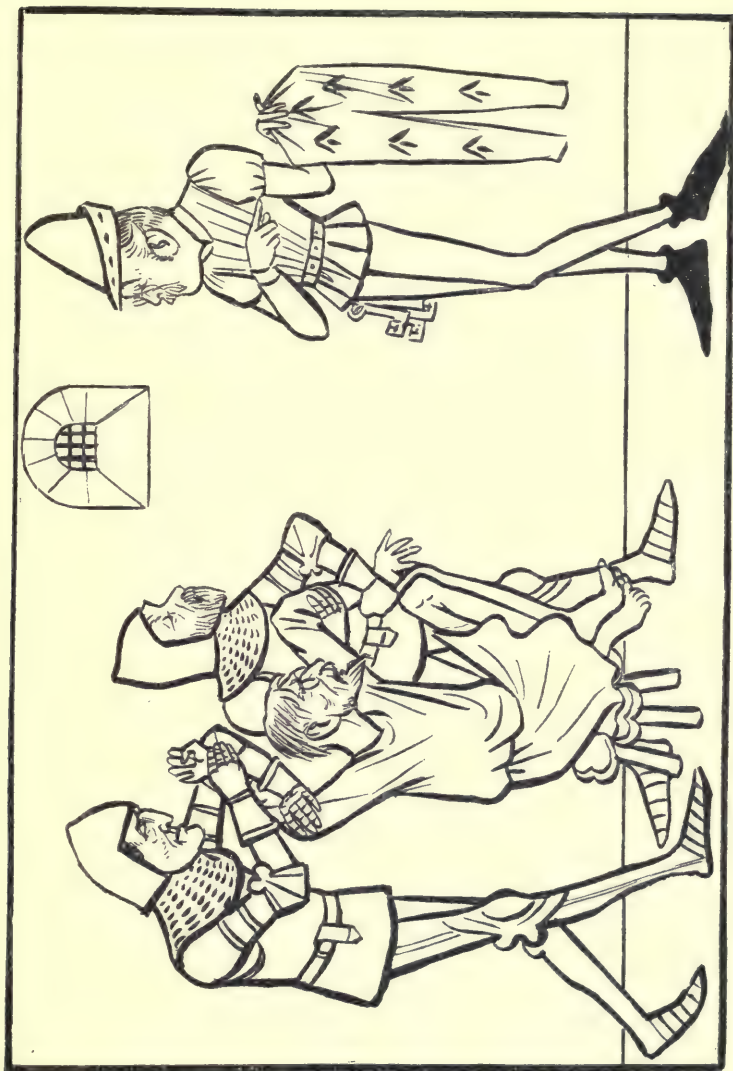
IRISH FOOT SOLDIER.
(*Irish Records.*)

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who exacted tribute from them by torturing them on the rack and tearing their clothes in pieces, which they call rack-renting.

To tell you the truth, Ireland is the most difficult to overcome of all the countries that England has made war upon. Moreover, the Irish are a right hardy race, bold in defiance, of great subtlety, and of various tempers, and being as quick of wit as the English are slow, they have ever been covetise of ruling themselves in their own way. This the English would not have, and there were fierce conflicts between the English lords and the Irish chiefs and people. The English made laws which the Irish would not suffer, and when they rebelled they were cast into prison. But so far from these disorders being appeased by imprisoning the chiefs it only made them the more perverse and rebellious.

Another grievance that these people had much at heart was that the English oppressors would have the chiefs whom they had in captivity to wear breeches after the custom of the English. And it fell that when one of the most potent of the chiefs in Ireland, a certain William O'Brien, had been taken and cast into a dungeon in the Castle of Killanmaimem the English governor commanded that



O'BRIEN REFUSETH TO WEAR ENGLISH BREECHES.
(*Irish Records.*)

Froissart's Modern Chronicles

a pair of breeches should be made for him to wear, and strove by force to compel him to wear them. But O'Brien resisted stoutly, saying, "By Gorra, but I will not have English habits thrust upon me." This proceeding gave sore displeasure to the Irish, and they were mightily angered thereat.

Of English political parties and how Sir Gladstone le Grand sought to appease Ireland.

Now you must know that in England men are divided into two parties, which I will call the Buffs and the Blues, for such are the colours of the banners and other emblems displayed when they fight one with the other. Whatsoever the Buffs do when they are in power the Blues deem to be mischievous and dangerous to the public welfare and the honour and good name of the country. And in like manner the Buffs look upon the doings of the Blues. Now the leader of the Blues was a great nobleman, my lord of Salisbury, and the chief of the Buffs was Sir Gladstone le Grand, who had great power and influence over the common people, swaying them whithersoever he willed by the persuasiveness of his speech.

Ye have heard before of the discontent of Ireland

The Governance of Ireland

and the troubles that arose therefrom, and I will now shew how Sir Gladstone le Grand, being weary of the perpetual war between the English and the Irish, bethought him of a way to end it and to bring about peace and comfort, and this way was to give to the Irish the liberty to govern themselves as they would, for he said to himself, "This thing cannot long endure in this estate, but at last the realm of England shall perceive the matter and repent it." You must know that in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred fourscore and five there had been a great battle between the Buffs and the Blues, in the which the Buffs prevailed, albeit they had much ado to overcome their enemies. Indeed it has been reported to me that they would have been hard pressed to hold their ground, seeing that many of the burgesses and commons of the cities and towns of England joined themselves to the nobility, clergy, and gentry of the Blues, had not the villeins and mean people come out from the shires, bailiwicks, and villages and fallen upon the Blues with pitchforks and flails and reaping hooks.

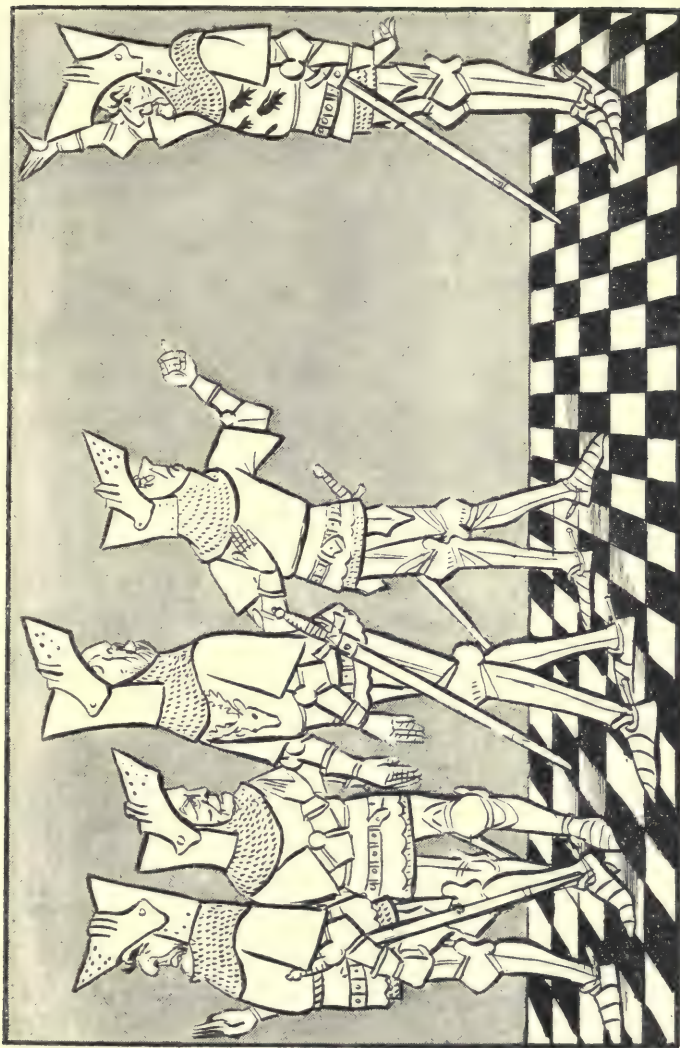
In the early months of the next year following, therefore, Sir Gladstone le Grand, deeming himself to be well established in puissance, assembled the

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chief men of the Buffs and spake thus to them :
“Let us bind our Irish brethren to us by a union of hearts and let us loose the fetters of steel, for true it is that love and good humour will prevail with them more than coercion, for force is no remedy.”

He told them also how the Irish had in former times loved and feared Saint Edward, King of England, lord of Ireland and of Aquitaine, more than any other King of England before or since, and how when King Richard the Second sent an expedition to Ireland, he, having this in his mind, laid aside the leopards and flowers de luce, and bore the arms of Saint Edward emblazoned on all the banners; these were a cross patencé or. on a field gules, with four doves argent on the shield or banner, as you please. This was very pleasing to the Irish, and inclined them more to submission than even a great armament. After Sir Gladstone le Grand had spoken thus to the Buffs, they pondered for a while and then for the most part they answered, “Let it be so, for we perceive the wisdom of this counsel; let us give to the Irish the home rule that they desire to have.”

But there were many who said, “Nay, but we



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM AND OTHERS REJECT THE COUNSEL OF
SIR GLADSTONE LE GRAND.

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will not agree, and if ye give to the Irish that for which they are covetise then are ye traitors and separatists, and we will go out from amongst you, for ye are not true Buffs if ye do this evil thing."

Of those who spake in this wise the Lord de Hartington, afterwards the Duke de Hartington, Sir James de Hereford, afterwards the Lord James de Hereford, Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and Sir Courtney de Chelsea were the chief, and of the events that followed and the ill-fortunes that befell the Buffs I will speak hereafter.

Of the arms borne by my lord of Salisbury and Sir Gladstone le Grand.

That all may recognise the truth of my history I will now shew what were the arms borne by the leaders of the Blues and the Buffs.

My lord of Salisbury bore for arms, quarterly; first and fourth barry of ten argent and azure, over all six escutcheons, three, two, and one, sable, each charged with a lion rampant of the first, a crescent for difference, Cecil: second and third argent, on a pale sable, a conger's head erased and erect, or, charged with an ermyne spot, Gascoyne.

And Sir Gladstone le Grand bore for arms, argent,

The Governance of Ireland

a savage's head affrontée distilling drops of blood,
about the temples a wreath of holly vert within an
orle fleury gules, all within eight martlets sable.

*How Sir Joseph de Birmingham renounced his former heresies and
did penance therefor.*

I have already set out the names of some of those who would not listen to the counsel of Sir Gladstone le Grand as to the governing of Ireland. Let us now speak more particularly of one, Sir Joseph de Birmingham, not because of his exalted rank, for indeed he was but a commoner, but because he exceeded all others in forwardness, which the people of England call pushfulness, and was the fiercest in withstanding his former leader. Moreover he had great subtlety of tongue. Now of all those who had been reckoned of the party of the Buffs Sir Joseph de Birmingham was the one who had been the most hated of my lord of Salisbury and the Blues, for he was wont to go amongst the common people and stir them up to discontent against the nobility, clergy, and gentry.

He was accustomed to assemble great crowds in the cities, towns, and bailiwicks of the Midlands, to whom he would say :

“ My good friends, things cannot go on well in

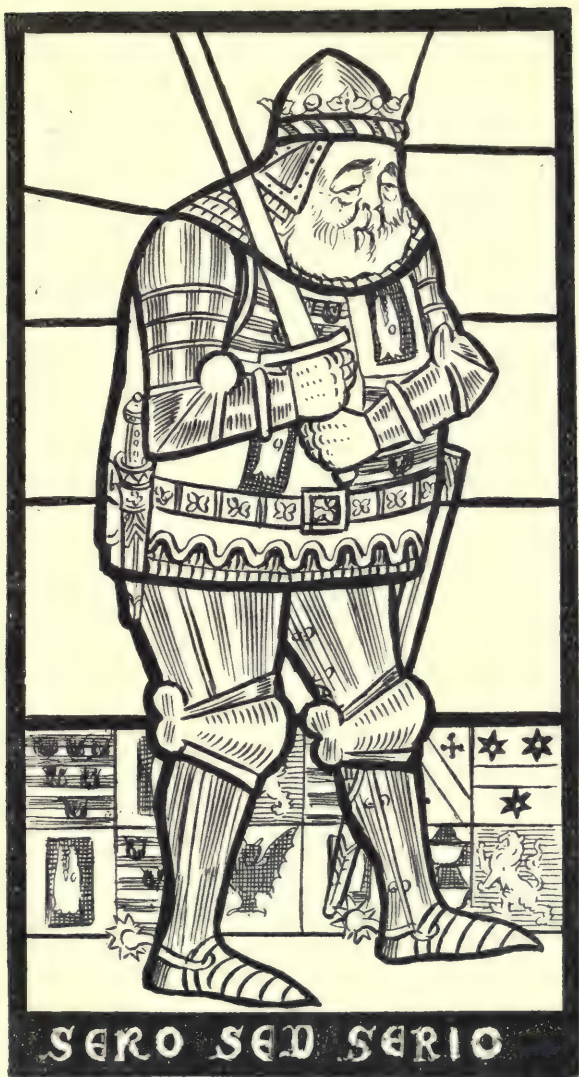
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England, nor ever will until the lords shall be no more masters than ourselves. For they are made of the same flesh and blood as we ourselves. Are we not all descended from the same parents, Adam and Eve? Why should they make us labour and work, for them to spend? They are clothed in velvets and rich stuffs, ornamented with ermine; they have handsome seats and manors, when we must brave the world and rain in our labours in the fields; but it is from our labour they have wherewith to support their pomp, for they toil not neither do they spin. Let us put them down from their high places and hold them to ransom."

In this wise he spoke to the people, telling them they should no longer allow the lords to interfere with the making of their laws. For this reason, therefore, my lord of Salisbury and other noble lords, and the clergy and gentry sought to put down Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and to prevent the mischief he wrought amongst the common people.

"Who is this pestilent fellow that he should annoy us and inflame the rabble against us?" quoth my lord of Salisbury.

When Sir Joseph de Birmingham heard of what my lord of Salisbury had said, he was enraged, saying,



THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY.
(*From a Stained-glass Window.*)

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"By my faith but I am minded to march with my men of Birmingham to London to beard this arrogant nobleman and to teach him to curb his discourteous tongue."

When this was related to my lord of Salisbury he replied,

"I would to God he might come, for then would this Jack Cade perchance get him home again to Birmingham with a broken pate."

Thus there was little love between my lord of Salisbury and Sir Joseph de Birmingham. There were even some amongst the Buffs who said that Sir Joseph was too prone to dangerous doctrines, but of these he made mock, saying he would do as he willed, and he abused them, likening one to Rip Van Winkle and another to a skeleton at a feast.

To Sir Gladstone le Grand, however, he professed great loyalty declaring that he looked up to him as to a great mountain.

But when it fell about that Sir Gladstone le Grand resolved to give home rule to the Irish, and Sir Joseph de Birmingham had withdrawn himself from the Buffs, my lord of Salisbury and the others of the nobility, clergy, and gentry of the Blues forgot their former hatred and received him with marvellous pleasure and great love.



THE VIGIL AND RENUNCIATION OF SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM.

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I will now relate that which has not herebefore been recorded, namely, the manner in which after a time Sir Joseph de Birmingham purged himself of his former pestilent heresies, and did penance therefor.

According to the secret history that has been revealed to me by one well acquainted with the matters of which he discoursed, Sir Joseph de Birmingham went privily to Hatfield, where abode my lord of Salisbury, and prepared himself to be received into the right noble company of the Blues by watching for a night, clad only in his smock, and with a taper in his hand, in the Chapel of Hatfield, and there he kept vigil.

My lord of Salisbury would have had him doff even his smock, but he refused, saying that it behoved him for decency to keep his last garment which was but a thin partition.

And the next morning after his vigil the noble lords assembled and clothed him with beautiful raiment of many colours, and a blue velvet robe, saying to him,

“You are now one of us.”

And Sir Joseph de Birmingham was mightily pleased when he sat down with the nobility, clergy, and gentry. “Of a truth,” quoth he, “I am now one of the Gentlemen of England.”

CHAPTER II

How Sir Gladstone le Grand failed in his enterprize to the discomfiture of the Buffs, and of what befell Sir Stuart de Parnell.

YE may well know that it was in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred fourscore and six that Sir Gladstone le Grand set himself to give home rule to Ireland, and right valiantly he fought to that end, but it fortunèd that the Blues with the aid of those who had gone over to them from the other side set upon the Buffs and overthrew them, so that Sir Gladstone le Grand was driven to retreat, and the Government fell into the hands of my lord of Salisbury and the Blues.

When that the Blues had thus conquered their enemies they sent an expedition into Ireland, under the command of Sir Arthur de Balfour, nephew of my lord of Salisbury, with the intent to subdue the people and to compel them to be contented with English rule. But although he took with him a great armament and many battering-rams the Irish

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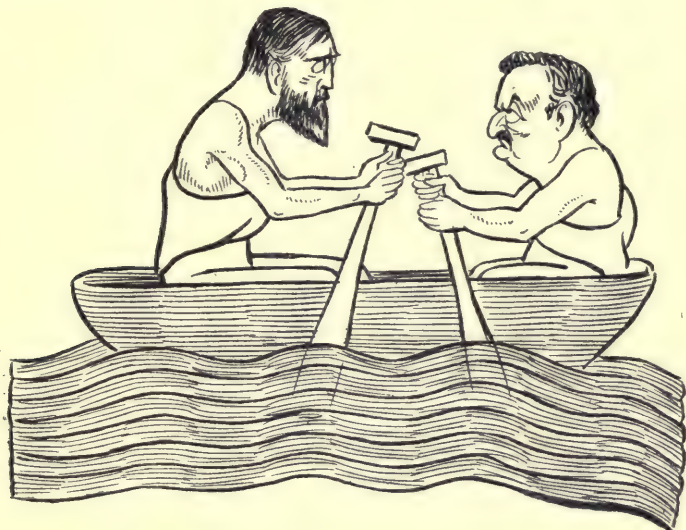
SIR STUART DE PARNELL.
(From a Memorial Brass.)

diligently resisted, and it was during this season that the English did many things that were sore displeasing to the Irish, more particularly the piteous business of the chief O'Brien's breeches, which I have already related to you.

Now the chief leader of the Irish was a certain Sir Stuart de Parnell, who, although he was descended from an English family, had an estate in Ireland and espoused the Irish cause. Ye may well have it in remembrance that the Irish love fighting, and if there be no common enemy they take great delight in making war between themselves, and one of their customs is to break each other's skulls with axes or great sticks. But Sir Stuart de Parnell had great power over them, and they forgot their quarrels for a

Sir Stuart de Parnell

time whenever they marched under his banner against the English. He bore for arms on a shield gules, two chevronels, in chief three escallops argent, but for his banner he displayed a harp of gold on a green ground.



IRISHMEN ROWING.

(Irish Records.)

Many of the English held him in great hatred, and sought to put him under, and one Sir John Thunderer thought to have done so, for there came to him a certain base scribe who said that he had letters written by Sir Stuart de Parnell, proving that

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he had been privy to murders and other crimes. So Sir John Thunderer bought these letters in faith that Sir Stuart de Parnell had in truth written them and



IRISH SCRIBE.
(*Irish Records.*)

caused the matter thereof to be published throughout the length and breadth of the land. This gave great pleasure to the Blues, and they wagged their heads and said, "This is an end of Sir Stuart de Parnell

Sir Stuart de Parnell

and his Irish fellows. Where is now your home rule?" But Sir Stuart de Parnell answered right scornfully that the letters were not by his hand.

So great was the commotion that Sir Stuart de Parnell and others of the Irish chiefs were brought to trial before three judges of England. But when the base fellow who had sold to Sir John Thunderer the letters of which I have told you came before the judges to give his testimony, Sir Charles de Russell, a valiant knight who counselled Sir Stuart de Parnell in this matter with great wisdom, questioned him so shrewdly and so fiercely that the fellow was affrighted and, falling on his knees, made confession that he had written the letters with his own hand counterfeiting the writing of Sir Stuart de Parnell. And when he had made his confession he went away privily and put an end to himself.

The Blues were much cast down at this, and for a time Sir Stuart de Parnell had great honour, but by ill-fortune it chanced that he fell one day from a rope ladder and was grievously hurt. This caused great commotion amongst the Irish, who had thought to have won speedily the home rule of which they were covetise, but when they found that Sir Stuart de Parnell was no longer able to lead them they quar-

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relled between themselves with marvellous bitterness. And even when Sir Stuart de Parnell died the feud



IRISHMEN FIGHTING.
(*Irish Records.*)

was not healed, but the rather increased, the chiefs on either side breaking each other's skulls whensoever they encountered.

The Battle of Home Rule

How Sir Gladstone le Grand would not be discouraged and of the harp that he caused to be made.

Now it might well be imagined that Sir Gladstone le Grand would be sore discouraged and cast down by the ill-fortune of Sir Stuart de Parnell and the great discords of the Irish, but to yield was contrarious to his mind, and he continued diligently to affirm that the Irish should have their own governance. And to the end that he might win the people to his banner he clothed himself in a cloak of green poplin embroidered with golden shamrocks, and he caused to be made a counterpart of the Irish harp that was wont to hang in the Hall of Tara, and of the collar of gold that Malachi, who was much renowned in the ancient history of Ireland, had won from the proud invader.

And when he weened that the hour had come he assembled the Buffs, and falling fiercely upon the Blues he overthrew them and won back from my lord of Salisbury the governance which he had lost six years before.

And because this battle was fought in the year a thousand eight hundred four score and twelve, it is called in England the Battle of Ninety-two.



SIR GLADSTONE LE GRAND AND THE CHIEF COMMONERS OF THE BUFFS.
(*Westminster Records.*)

The Battle of Home Rule

Of the Battle of Ninety-two, called also the Battle of Home Rule, how Sir Gladstone le Grand behaved with great valiantness therein, and how the lords of the Blues would not yield.

In this battle knights and squires were of good courage on both parties to fight valiantly and showed great hardiness and fought merrily with great desire of honour, but in the end the Buffs, who were aided by the Irish, recoiled back their enemies and drove them from the governance. But the victory was not so great as the Buffs had hoped for, and when Sir Gladstone le Grand thought to press forward with his banner of home rule, he was still stoutly encountered and withstood. Being of great heart and high of enterprise, he took his axe in both his hands and entered so into the press, that he made himself in such wise, that none durst approach him, and none was so well armed that he feared him not for the great strokes that he gave. And many were the heads that he cut off at one blow.

Thus he went ever forward like a hardy Hector, willing alone to conquer the field and to discomfit his enemies, and of all the battles and encounterings that have been made mention of herebefore in all history, great or small, this was the sorest and best foughten and withal the most fiercely.

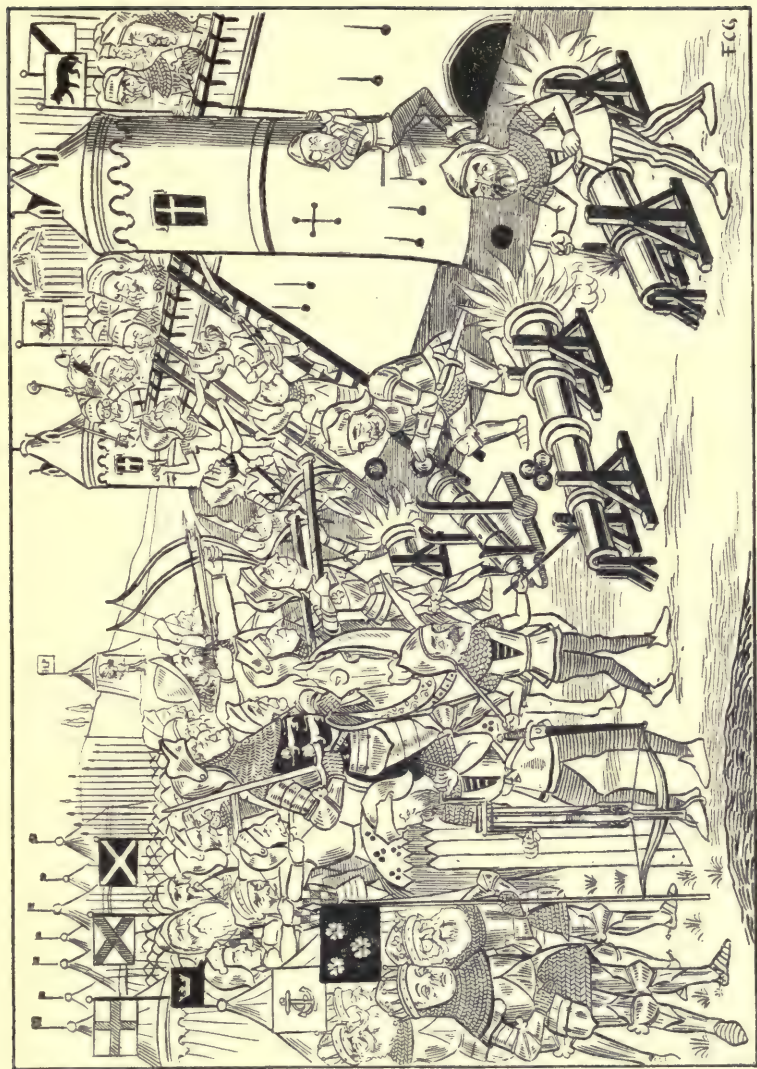
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But though the Blues were borne backwards they would in no wise yield, for behind them was a great and strong castle wherein the lords of the Blues had assembled, and this castle is placed with such marvellous cunning that the enemies of those who hold it can in no manner pass it by, but must assail and take it or retreat by the same way they came.

And so it fortuned that when Sir Gladstone le Grand and the Buffs came before the castle of the lords and called on them to yield, the lords of the Blues made mock of them. The Buffs displayed the banner of home rule before the walls and sent forward a herald to ask the lords, "Are ye content to let us pass that we may pursue the advantage that we have won in battle?"

Upon this the lords of the Blues gathered together on the wall and shouted with one voice, "We be all non-contents."

And so the castle walls being too high to climb and too stout for a breach to be made therein, Sir Gladstone le Grand and the Buffs withdrew themselves aback by the way they had come saying that they would bide their time when they could with greater ease destroy the castle.



ATTACKING THE LORDS.
(*Westminster Records.*)

CHAPTER III

How Sir James de Hereford was encountered and overthrown by Sir Henry de Fowler, and how Sir Joseph de Birmingham could not be found.

NOW after this battle was finished, though true it is that the Buffs could not prevail against the castle of the lords which stood in the way they had been minded to go, yet they still kept the governance of the country, but only with great watchfulness and diligence. For the Blues ceased not to make excursions against them, and every day there was cried alarum. In these skirmishings Sir Joseph de Birmingham was ever foremost, showing great skill at arms and valiantness except on a certain occasion of which I will tell you. Sir James de Hereford, with some men-at-arms from Lancashire, made a sudden and fierce attack upon the Buffs, but Sir Henry de Fowler set his lance in rest and galloped forward single-handed to meet Sir James, whose visor he

The Governance of the Buffs

struck so shrewd and stout a blow that Sir James de Hereford was thrown down and grievously stunned.

When the men of Lancashire saw this and that they had encountered so doughty a knight as Sir



SIR HENRY DE FOWLER CASTETH TO THE GROUND AT HIS SPERE POYNT
BEHYNDE THE HORSE TAILE THE KNIGHT CALLED SIR JAMES DE
HEREFORD.

(*Cotton MSS.*)

Henry de Fowler they turned aback and fled with marvellous haste. Now I must tell you that when Sir James de Hereford had gone forward to fall upon the Buffs he trusted that Sir Joseph de Birmingham

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would aid him in the enterprise, but when he looked to him for help after he was overthrown he found himself alone, for Sir Joseph de Birmingham, when he saw that Sir Henry de Fowler bore so true a lance, went away privily from the field of battle and hid himself so that he could not be found, and to this day no man knoweth whither he withdrew himself.

How Sir Gladstone le Grand being old and weary withdrew himself from the leadership of the Buffs, how the Earl of Durdans and Sir Harcourt de Malwood hasted to Westminster, and how the Earl of Durdans by reason of the swiftness of his horse won the race and became the leader.

During this mean season, in truth it was in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred four score and fourteen, it fell about, and ill was it for the fortunes of the Buffs as I shall shew you hereafter, that Sir Gladstone le Grand, being weary with weight of years and stress of fighting, withdrew himself from the leadership of his party and went to his castle in Flintshire, saying that he would fight no more, but was minded to rest for the time that was yet left to him of life.

When this was made known it caused great sorrow among the Buffs, for Sir Gladstone le Grand was a valiant knight and noble, and had always done his



SIR GLADSTONE LE GRAND.
(*From a Stained-glass Window.*)

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devoir, and they cast about to see who there might be worthily to succeed him.

Now there were two of the chief men of the Buffs either of whom might well be considered. The one was the Earl of Durdans, and the other was Sir Harcourt de Malwood. When it was told them that the Buffs were looking for a leader they mounted their horses quickly to ride to London with speed, but my lord of Durdans had in his stables a horse of marvellous swiftness, and Ladas, for such was its name, bore him to Westminster so fleetly that he arrived there while Sir Harcourt de Malwood was yet on his way.

So the nobles and the chief commoners of the Buffs took the Earl of Durdans for their leader and swore fealty to him. Albeit some there were who murmured saying, "We will not have a lord to rule over us." And of these the principal was one Henry of Northampton who loved mischief greatly, and had no regard for the nobility, clergy, and gentry. Others there were who said it was not seemly that the swiftness of a horse should in any wise count in so important a matter, and being godly men who favoured not racing or other worldly sports, they joined themselves to those who loved not lords and



THE EARL OF DURDANS RIDETH TO WESTMINSTER ON A SWIFT HORSE.
(*From the Rosebery Romance.*)

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they went out together and dwelt apart in a cave which they called the Cave of Adullam.

The Earl of Durdans took little heed of this dis-



PROTESTERS.

(From the Rosebery Romaunt.)

content, but after a while, so it has been shewn to me, certain chiefs of the Buffs set themselves to withstand him in counsel. The Irish, moreover, were

The Governance of the Buffs

contrarious to him because he had said that they ought not to have home rule granted to them until the greater part of England willed it. What came of this discontent I will relate hereafter.

Now I must tell you of the arms which the Earl of Durdans bore. These were; quarterly: first and fourth vert, three primroses within a double tressure flory counterflory or; second and third argent, a lion rampant, double queued sable.

How Sir Harcourt de Malwood laid heavy burdens on the nobility and gentry and took tribute of their estates.

I will now relate how Sir Harcourt de Malwood made enemies of many who had great riches and lands. For ye must know that it was Sir Harcourt who had charge of the Treasury, and his duty it was to devise how to maintain the revenue and to pay for the cost of the State. In truth this was a hard task, for every year there was more money wanted, and those who were taxed thought themselves hardly used. So when Sir Harcourt de Malwood had pondered for a while, he resolved that the nobility and gentry and those who had great riches, either in money, treasures, or lands should bear a greater burden. But when he showed that this was his

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intent, incontinent there was great outcry and murmuring amongst those who would suffer, for Sir Harcourt's purpose was to make a law to the end



SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD RECEIVETH DEATH
TRIBUTES INTO THE TREASURY.

that every man who should succeed to any property should forfeit a certain portion thereof to the State as tribute or death duty.

The Governance of the Buffs

Sir Harcourt de Malwood, however, took no heed of the murmuring, being resolved to have his way in this thing, for he said, "Those that be rich can afford to pay tribute on that of which they have more than they need better than the poor who have less than they want for comfort and well being." To this the nobility, gentry, and the rich folk answered, "Nay, but we be in truth poorer than those that have little goods, for the greater our possessions the more splendidly have we to maintain our state, so that we be but splendid paupers and should not be made to pay this tribute. And if this evil thing be done then shall we be forced to close our castles and our manors and our parks and our pleasaunces, so that those who possess not these things will no longer be able to enjoy beholding or walking therein. Moreover if we be compelled to pay this tax we cannot keep so great an array of horses and retainers, and so there will be many lacking employment. This will be very oppressive to the poor." But Sir Harcourt de Malwood would in no wise quit his purpose and in the end this law, of which I have told you, was made.

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Of the ambition of the Buffs to do many things at once, how they were surprised by the Blues, and how Sir Cawmell de Bannerman was sore hurt.

In the next year, being the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and the Buffs being still in power and having the governance, they were minded to do many things that they considered would be for the advantage of the people. They set themselves to fight against the Licensed Victuallers who had great power in England, and Sir Harcourt de Malwood himself undertook to lead them, for, quoth he, "It will never be well with England until these men are made subject to sober citizens who shall be able to determine by voting whether these Licensed Victuallers shall set themselves up in their taverns in their midst." This made the Licensed Victuallers very wrath, and my lord of Salisbury comforted them, saying that they should not be robbed by these pestilent Buffs, and that a free people had a right to free indulgence.

Now at the same time that Sir Harcourt de Malwood was thus occupied in his adventure against the Licensed Victuallers, there was another expedition, at the head of which was Sir Henry Asquith, who had the grace to be reputed sage and valiant



SIR HENRY ASQUITH.
(*Welsh Records.*)

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in arms. The purpose of this expedition was to rid Wales of certain prelates, against whom a great number of Welshmen murmured, saying that it was against their will that bishops and priests should be set in authority over them, seeing that they belonged to an alien Church.



WELSH SOLDIERS.

And besides these expeditions there were divers other enterprises which the Buffs adventured during the same season. This brought much trouble and no little contention amongst the Buffs, for those who were against the Licensed Victuallers insisted that

The Governance of the Buffs

their business should be the first considered, and those who were minded to drive the bishops and priests out of Wales likewise insisted that their discomfort should first be remedied.

But the Buffs could in no wise achieve and end all these various matters at one time, and had, whether they would or no, to set one enterprise before or after another, and so their power was sorely weakened and diminished.

Now the Blues were right well aware of this, and being vigilant, it fortune'd one day that they fell suddenly upon the Buffs when many of these were away and they had not sufficient arms, and threw them into disorder and sorely wounded Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, a Scottish knight who stood high in counsel and the next to Sir Harcourt de Malwood amongst the Buffs.

CHAPTER IV

Of the events that followed the wounding of Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, how Sir Joseph de Birmingham promised pensions to the common people, and of the great forces that the Blues gathered together against the Buffs.

NOW when the Blues perceived that the Buffs were disordered by the overthrow of Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, as I have herebefore related, they made merry with great rejoicing and triumph and with trumpets and clarions. But the Buffs were in like measure cast down, for they perceived that they could no longer hold the governance, seeing that there were some, even of their own people, who were not minded to be at the commandment of their leaders. It has ever been thus with the Buffs that divers amongst them will withdraw themselves whensoever matters go not as they wish, saying, "Let us rid ourselves of the old gang who rule over us. We will no longer fight for them, for things would be as well in the state if the Blues were in their places."



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM PROMISETH OLD-AGE PENSIONS TO THE PEOPLE.

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So the leaders of the Buffs took counsel together as to what they should do, and resolved that they would yield up the governance to my lord of Salisbury and the Blues, and that at a time to be appointed both parties should marshal all their forces in the country on one side and the other and put the matter to the test of battle. Now these events happened in the month of June, in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and it was made known by proclamation that in the following month the Blues, who were now in power, would give battle to the Buffs to prove their right to hold the places they had seized upon. In this meantime the chief commoners of both sides and their leaders, who were not lords, went into the country to gather together their forces, doing what they could to persuade men to join their banners.

Amongst those who thus spoke to the people was Sir Joseph de Birmingham, who was fighting for the Blues as fiercely as in former times he fought for the Buffs. He spoke cunningly, saying, "It will be well for you if you join yourselves to the Blues, for I have in my mind a plan whereby no man shall lack when he is old and no longer able to work, for there shall be given to him an old-age pension so

The Battle of Ninety-Five

that he may end his days in comfort and pleasure. And if it is your will that this should be as I have said, then must ye aid the Blues in the coming battle." In this manner Sir Joseph de Birmingham gained many promises.

There were others, also, of the chiefs of the Blues who made promises of these pensions, for they saw that of a surety this would serve them well. And Sir Arthur de Balfour, who was the nephew of my lord of Salisbury, and the chief of the commoners of the Blues, and who bore for arms a shield argent, on a chevron sable between three mullets of the second, an otters head erased of the first, all within a bordure of the second, displayed on his banner for motto "Social Programme."

The clergy, as was their custom, arrayed themselves under the banners of the Blues, for they held it to be a right ordinate and pious thing so to do. Moreover they had in remembrance how Sir Henry Asquith had led an expedition of the Buffs into Wales to drive out the prelates and destroy the Church in that country.

To them were joined the great company of Licensed Victuallers and those who traded in strong liquors, not, as I must tell you, because they loved

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the Church or were minded to be pious, but rather for the reason that both they and the Church enjoyed ancient privileges which they would neither of them have to be disturbed by the pestilent and meddlesome Buffs.

And so in the same measure as the clergy hated Sir Henry Asquith, those who traded in drink hated Sir Harcourt de Malwood because he had withstood them.

And there were others, also, who were sore vexed against Sir Harcourt de Malwood. These were the nobility, gentry, the rich men, and the puissant merchants of the cities and towns, for Sir Harcourt had, as I have already told you, laid heavy burdens on their estates. So they armed themselves and their retainers and set themselves in array on the side of the Blues.

Thus it came about that to those who preached soberness and godly living were added others who profited by things not pertaining thereto. And likewise to those who murmured because they were taxed were joined others who were covetise of receiving pensions from the taxes which Sir Joseph de Birmingham had promised them.

In this manner the Blues gathered together a

The Battle of Ninety-Five

marvellous great array of knights and squires and men-at-arms, but the Buffs, though they put on a bold front were much discomforted, for they perceived that things went not well for them and they had little hope to prevail in the battle against the numbers that were being set in order over against them. Natheless they were resolved to stand their ground and to do their devoir with honour and courage whatever fortune might fall to them.

Now you must know that in Britain it is not the custom that lords should take any part in these great battles between the Buffs and the Blues, for they are lords of Parliament by reason of their birth, and not by the will of the people. Therefore neither the Earl of Durdans nor my lord of Salisbury went into the field, but they sent messages to encourage each his own followers. And Sir Gladstone le Grand also, although he could not put on armour, by reason of his age, sent a message from his castle in Flintshire to the Buffs, saying to them that it behoved them to uphold the rights of the Commons against the dominance of the Lords and to give to Ireland that which she demanded.

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Of the battle of Ninety-Five, how the Buffs were discomfited, and how many gallant Knights were unseated in the fight.

It was in the month of July in the year a



SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD, BEING SORELY WOUNDED, BETAKETH
HIMSELF INTO WALES.

thousand eight hundred and ninety-five that the great battle came to an issue. Scarcely can I for sorrow, having some love for the cause of the Buffs, per-

The Battle of Ninety-Five

petuate their woeful defeat"; but as I have promised at the commencement of this history to set down nothing but what was strictly true, I must detail the unfortunate consequences of this battle. That it was



SIR JOHN DE MORLAIX, BEING GRIEVOUSLY HURT IN BATTLE, IS CONVEYED INTO SCOTLAND, WHERE HE RECOVERETH FROM HIS WOUNDS.

fiercely foughten on both sides you may be well assured, but fortune ill-favoured the Buffs, for in the very first onset their leader, Sir Harcourt de Malwood, was unseated and grievously hurt. It would have gone hard with him, indeed he might have

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been lost altogether, had not his friends conveyed him away swiftly into Monmouthshire, where he was carefully tended and recovered of his wounds.

And many other gallant knights and squires of the Buffs were overthrown that day. Amongst them was Sir John de Morlaix, who was so fiercely beset by Newcastle Blues that he was thrown down in the press and barely escaped with his life to Montrose in Scotland, where he found refuge and comfort. And others who were sore handled and overthrown in the battle were Sir Arnold de Morlaix, and Sir Shaw Le Fevre and divers other knights and squires, of whom a certain Beau Bescencer was greatly lamented, for he was much beliked.

Whereto should I write long process of this great battle? The Blues were more in number than the Buffs and recoiled them back to their utter discomfiture, and when they saw that the Buffs were overthrown beyond recoverance or remedy they were greatly rejoiced, and the nobility, clergy, gentry and publicans made merry together, believing that they had made an end of their enemies.

CHAPTER V

How Sir Joseph de Birmingham favoured his brethren to the displacing of divers of the Blues, and the discontent thereat.

YOU may well understand that my lord of Salisbury, being the leader of the Blues and a noble of great puissance, could not be blamed for showing natural affection towards those of his own blood and kinship, and when, therefore, he put his two nephews Arthur and Gerald de Balfour, and his son-in-law the Earl of Selborne, into places of power, the Blues accorded thereto with but little murmuring. But when it was seen that Sir Joseph de Birmingham was minded to do likewise, albeit he was not a lord, there was great discontent. For Sir Joseph insisted to my lord of Salisbury that honourable offices should be found for his son Austin de Chamberlain, and for his faithful henchmen Powell de Williams, a merchant of Birmingham, and Jesse de Collings, who was in some repute, because he had

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once said that it would not be well with the State until every man had three acres and a cow thereon. It has been related to me that my lord of Salisbury would not at first agree to these demands, saying that there were no places which could be given to them, to which Sir Joseph de Birmingham answered



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM DEMANDETH PLACES FOR HIS SON
AND OTHERS.

“Then must some of the gentlemen go outside to make room.” The conclusion of the matter was that Sir Joseph de Birmingham had his way to the great offence of many of the Blues, who murmured that those who had always been of their party should be thrust aside for the profit of those who had for the

The Governance of the Blues

greater part of their lives been Buffs. For Sir Joseph de Birmingham's son Austin, and Powell de Williams and Jesse de Collings had come over to the party of the Blues when Sir Gladstone le Grand raised the banner of Home Rule.

How the Blues, having the governance in their hands, did good service to their friends more particularly the Nobility and Gentry.

I have told you how that some of the Blues were not pleased because Sir Joseph de Birmingham had caused places to be found for his friends, indeed there were certain of them that were sore vexed for they had held high offices before and might well have expected to be again preferred. But you may well consider that this must often be so, for there are always more men who think themselves worthy to be chosen for honourable offices than there are offices to be filled, and thus of necessity there must be some whom fortune favours not. But for the most part the Blues were well contented and the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry, and Publicans had much ease in their minds seeing that Sir Harcourt de Malwood and Sir Henry Asquith and others of the Buffs could no longer do them damage. Moreover they looked to be rewarded for the aid they had

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given the Blues in the battle which destroyed the Buffs. The nobility, gentry, and those who had great possessions of land, looked to be relieved of the burdens of taxes that Sir Harcourt de Malwood had laid upon them, but Sir Michael Le Noir, who was now chief of the Treasury, set so great store on these taxes that he would not remit them seeing that the costs and charges of the governance of the realm grew larger by leaps and bounds in each year. But my lord of Salisbury, and the other ministers, being resolved that something should be done to comfort and aid these unhappy people, caused a law to be made whereby a moiety of the taxes on agricultural land is given back to those who pay them. This, they said, would be of great service to the tenants who labour the lands and to their villeins. Of this the Buffs made mock, saying "Nay! but the lords of the land will get the remission for themselves, and there will be little that will go into the pockets of the tenants or their villeins."

This law of which I have told you was made in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred four score and sixteen, and it remaineth until this day.

All these things were told me by one who had full knowledge thereof to the intent that I might have

The Governance of the Blues

them in perpetual memory and should set them down when I had leisure thereto.

I also demanded of him what arms Sir Michael Le Noir bare, he answered me and said, "Sir, he beareth in his arms, quarterly: first and fourth, vaire, argent and gules, a canton azure charged with a pale gules; second and third, gules, a fesse wavy between three fleurs-de-lys or, a crescent for difference. And he beareth for motto, 'Tout en bon heure.'" I demanded of him what was the translation in the English language to which he replied, "All in good time."

"But," said he, "his good time is yet to come."

How certain Adventurers in Africa made an excursion in a neighbouring country, how they were in great peril of being destroyed, and of the great troubles that ensued to the State.

The better to enter into the matter of divers evils that have lately fallen on the realm of Britain, I will now relate what has been shewed to me of the origin of these things.

Now there was in Africa a certain Free Company that possessed great territories, which fell to the adventurers in the manner common in these things, that is, first by treaties and thereafter by conquest.

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The adventurers who joined themselves together in this Free Company, of which I have spoken, thought to have found gold of which they were covetise, and at their head was a certain Sir Cecil de Kimberley, a man of marvellous vigour and forwardness and who had great riches in precious stones, and was a puissant knight and a Privy Councillor. The name of this territory is Charter Land, and it lies on the borders of two other countries where there dwelt tribes of Dutchmen, to the northward the Transvaalers, and to the southward the Free Staters, as they were called.

They be hard people and rude; they set nothing by jollity or fresh apparel, nor by gold and precious stones, for they till the soil and herd cattle, and have great skill in taking wild beasts, and there was little love between them and the adventurers of the Free Company of Charter Land.

For it chanced by evil fortune that in the country of the Transvaalers there were gold mines of exceeding richness, and when adventurers went over into the land to dig, they were, so they conceived, cruelly set upon and oppressed. They said that as they were dwelling in the land of the Transvaalers and paid their taxes duly, they should be enrolled as burghers,

The Upsetting of the Apple-Cart

and have a share in the making of the laws and the choosing of the rulers.

Now the chief of the Transvaalers was a certain Oom Paul, an aged man but of great obstinacy, and he set his face against the adventurers, saying: "These be but birds of passage who desire to gain the gold that is under the land, not that they may live and spend it here, but that they may take it away with them into their own country. And if we give them a share in the making of the laws and the governance, then will they use it for our undoing."

Out of this, as I shall shew you hereafter, arose sore troubles.

I have told you that the ruler of Charter Land was Sir Cecil de Kimberley. He had under him a certain Leander Jimson, a chirurgion, who had been foremost amongst the adventurers in gaining the land, and who, having more daring than discretion, and no more knowledge of war than of wisdom, set himself violently to remedy the matters of which the adventurers in the Transvaal made complaint.

This Leander Jimson, and others having no more wit than himself, privily collected some armed bands in Charter Land, and on the last day but one of the month of December, in the year of our Lord a thousand

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eight hundred and ninety-five, suddenly they made an excursion into the country of the Transvaalers to the end that they might overthrow Oom Paul.

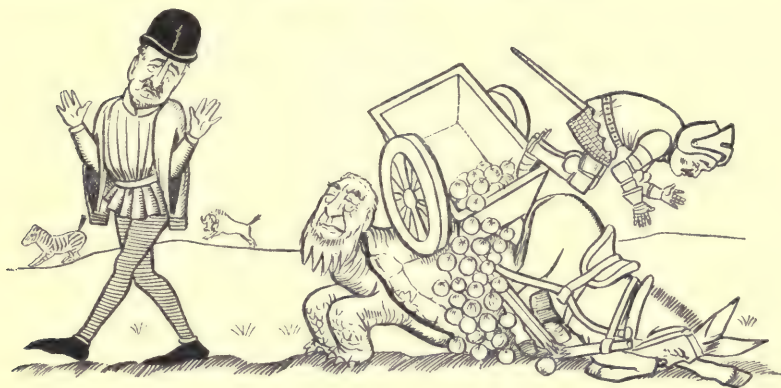
But the Transvaalers, though they be rude people, when they know that any man maketh war against them and is entered into their countries, then they draw together to the straits and passages and defend them, and when they see their time, they will soon take their advantage on their enemies. In this wise the raiders who were led by Leander Jimson were encountered and incontinently overthrown, some being slain or wounded, and the rest were made prisoners, much to their shame and discomfort.

Sir Cecil de Kimberley had great marvel of these news, when it was told to him, for it touched him closely; but he dissembled the matter for that time and said how all that noise was wrong, for it was nothing of his business; but for truth he said that his squire, Leander Jimson, had made this excursion for none other end than to upset an apple cart.

I relate this as it was told to me, being desirous to chronicle in my history the true foundation of the cause, and to that intent I will not forget, minish, or abridge the matters that have been shewed me, and if any fault be in what I have here set down, I trust

The Upsetting of the Apple-Cart

it will not be imputed to me for malice, but rather that I have not rightly comprehended the things that have been related to me. Indeed it would be marvel if I made no error seeing that there was much confusion in the divers reports, so that I cannot of a surety tell what is false and what is true.



SIR CECIL DE KIMBERLEY SEETH HIS APPLE-CART UPSET AND
IS MUCH PERTURBED THEREAT.

(South African Records.)

Now when Sir Joseph de Birmingham, who had to do with the governance of Charter Land and Africa, was informed of this rash excursion, it made him sore to muse and he was much cast down and disturbed in his mind, for he clearly perceived that great trouble would ensue therefrom. So he sent messengers to Oom Paul saying that those who had

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done this evil thing had no warrant to break the peace and to enter by force of arms into his country, and that he trusted that his good lady was recovered of her sickness.



LORD CHIEF JUSTICE RUSSELL CHARGING A JURY.
(*Law Court Records.*)

It had been well imagined that Oom Paul would have put to death the prisoners that he had taken, but he was well advised not to do so, and in the end he yielded them up to the intent that they should be

The Upsetting of the Apple-Cart

conveyed back to England and put on their trial for their offence. But others of the more wealthy of the adventurers he cast into prison for ransom, and when



A MAN OF LAW, SIR RICHARD DE WEBSTER.
(*Law Court Records.*)

they had paid this he banished them from the country.

Of the adventurers who had been brought back,

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their leader Leander Jimson and some other of his officers were taken before the Judges and put into prison for a time, but there were many who said that the punishment was marvellous little for the evil that had been wrought.

CHAPTER VI

How the Buffs, being at sea, were much perplexed by cross-currents, how the Earl of Durdans left the ship, and how Sir Harcourt de Malwood took command thereof.

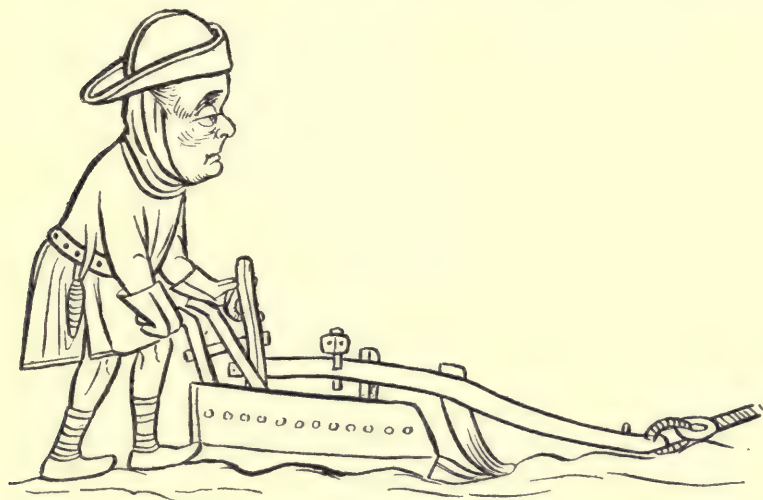
NOW let us return to speak of the fortunes of the Buffs and what befell them during this season. You must know that there being no comfort for them on land since they were overthrown in the battle of Ninety-five, they put to sea in a ship thinking to have voyaged for a time until they could recover strength, and peradventure they might find some promise of again prevailing over the Blues. But ill were they fortunèd, for the chief men were contrarious to each other, one desiring that the ship should be steered on this course and another on that. In this wise they drifted into great peril of shipwreck, being caught in cross-currents and violently tossed about hither and thither, until at last the Earl of Durdans, being weary and sore vexed, and the ship chancing one day in the month of October in the same year of our Lord a



THE CHIEFS OF THE BUFFS, BEING AT SEA, ARE SORELY BUFFETED
ABOUT BY CROSS CURRENTS.

The Evil Fortune of the Buffs

thousand eight hundred and ninety-six to drift near the land, incontinent he did leap over the side and waded to the shore, saying that he would find greater comfort in ploughing the land than the sea.



PLOUGHING.
(*From the Rosbery Romaunt.*)

When the others found that he had gone, Sir Harcourt de Malwood took the helm and thought to have carried the ship on a more prosperous course.

Whether he did so or not I will relate hereafter.

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How Sir Gladstone le Grand would have led a crusade against the Saracens who had cruelly ill-treated the Armenians.

During this same season the Saracens had greatly angered all the Christian nations by the evil things they did amongst the Armenians. They cruelly oppressed them and when they rebelled the Sultan sent bands of rascals against them with fire and sword, giving them license to torture and to put to death without mercy, men, women, and children, monks, priests, and patriarchs, so that in many parts of the land there abode alive no manner of person, house, nor church, but it was destroyed: the which was great pity so to destroy Christian blood, and the Churches of God, wherein God was honoured and served.

Now Sir Gladstone le Grand had no love for the Sultan, whom those who espoused the cause of the Armenians called Abdul the Damned, and though he was now old and past bearing arms, he would have put on his harness once more and carried the banner of the Cross against the Crescent.

But my lord of Salisbury and the Blues set themselves against this commotion, saying that it was no more their business than of any other Christian

The Concert of the Powers

power to make war against the Sultan, and that all these Christian powers must be together in concert.

This in truth was excellent counsel, but the Sultan took but little heed of this music, for he was subtle and knew right well that those who were minded to play to him yet could not agree in the matter of the tune.

CHAPTER VII

How Sir Cecil de Kimberley came to England and conversed with Sir Joseph de Birmingham ; of the Enquiry caused to be made into matters pertaining to Africa, of the music played thereat ; how Sir Cecil de Kimberley encountered the Committee and sat thereon ; of the results that did not follow, and of the things that were not found.

YOU have before heard how a certain squire in the train of Sir Cecil de Kimberley, one Leander Jimson, had, with some of the Free Company of Charter Land, made an excursion into the territories of Oom Paul, and how in the end the apple-cart of Sir Cecil de Kimberley had been overturned to the undoing of Jimson and those who were with him.

You must know, as indeed I have already related, how this matter caused much commotion, seeing that some of those who joined in this enterprise were servants of the Queen of England, and had no warrant to make war. Now, during the season when

The Affairs of South Africa

Jimson and Sir John de Willoughby, and the others of the Free Company who had been taken prisoners by Oom Paul, were being conveyed to England, Sir Cecil de Kimberley himself had taken ship and hastened



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM AND SIR CECIL DE KIMBERLEY CONVERSE.

to London that he might have speech with Sir Joseph de Birmingham concerning the business.

I cannot relate to you exactly in this chronicle in what manner Sir Joseph de Birmingham and Sir Cecil de Kimberley conversed, for they met privily,

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and I can only speak as rumour runneth. But it has been told me that at the first Sir Joseph studied to receive Sir Cecil haughtily, believing that he had come to make excusations.

"Sir," quoth he, "it right greatly displeaseth me that the Free Company of Charter Land hath disturbed this realm by adventure which overrunneth the letters patent given and accorded to them. Moreover, there be great murmurings on this matter amongst the people, who say that I should have known of things pertaining to my office in the State. You are a Privy Counsellor, and it was not seemly that you should have put your apple-cart in the hands of these mischievous adventurers."

To this Sir Cecil de Kimberley answered: "Sir, of a truth it behoveth you not to be so reproachful, for it is your apple-cart as well as mine that hath been put in peril, and we be both in the same plight, seeing that neither you nor I had foreknowledge of the enterprise. Let us the rather have pity for each for we be both in the same boat."

Then these two looked one at the other and sorely mused, for neither knew how much the other did not know.

This is as may be, for I cannot of a surety vouch

The Affairs of South Africa

for the truth of everything that has been shewed me; therefore I will leave speaking thereof. But it is well known that when they had made an end of speaking, Sir Cecil de Kimberley departed hastily and sailed back to Africa, saying he would return and face whatsoever music there might fortune to be played.

This was in the month of February, in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred and ninety-six. Let us now come to the events that happened in the following year, in which was celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Great and Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria. I will not here speak of the many very noble and magnificent feasts and processions for the rejoicing of the people and the honour and glory of the Queen inasmuch as I am minded only to chronicle such matters as relate to the political history of the realm.

I will now proceed, therefore, to tell you of the inquiry that was caused to be made in England into the events in Africa with which I have made you acquainted.

To the end that these might be searched out, fifteen knights and esquires were chosen by Parliament and charged to make diligent inquest. Amongst

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these were Sir Jackson de Leeds, Sir Joseph de Birmingham, Sir Harcourt de Malwood, Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, Sir Michael le Noir, Sir Richard de Webster, Henry de Labouchere, and others, all Members of Parliament and of divers tempers and inclinations. When these had assembled in a Council chamber at Westminster on the day appointed, they agreed together that Sir Cecil de Kimberley should be summoned to appear before them, so that they might enquire of him concerning the causes of the disorders in Africa. Incontinent Sir Cecil presented himself, for with that intent he had come again to England. He had with him many friends of great distinction and much wealth; there were present also divers men of law who were minded to raise various points whensoever the committee would give ear to them, which indeed was but seldom.

It might well have been that Sir Cecil de Kimberley would have been discomfited when Sir Harcourt de Malwood and others questioned him closely as to the apple-cart which he had entrusted to Leander Jimson, but in truth he was no whit abashed and demeaned himself as if he had done no wrong.

He was at no pains to deny that he was privy to the raid into the territories of Oom Paul, but excused

The Affairs of South Africa

himself by saying that the adventure was wrong only that it failed of success, and that kings and princes at various times had engaged in like enterprises.



MEN OF LAW RAISING POINTS.
(*South Africa Committee Records.*)

Of a surety it would have been idle for Sir Cecil to deny foreknowledge of the business, for it fortuneed that Oom Paul had found certain letters that had

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fallen out of the apple-cart which shewed the whole matter clearly. These letters had for secrecy been written in cypher, but the translation thereof had, with marvellous wisdom, been also conveyed in the cart.

Sir Cecil de Kimberley, therefore, made no secret of his connivance, seeing that it had been clearly shewed, and he related how a certain golden city in the Transvaal, in which were many distressful girls, was in great peril from the Hollanders, and that it was for this reason and also to relieve those who sought for gold in the land of Oom Paul from the heavy burdens laid upon them, that the Free Company of Charter Land had crossed the border, albeit his squire Leander Jimson had been over previous in his venture.

In this wise Sir Cecil de Kimberley spoke to the noble knights and esquires in the Council chamber at Westminster, and in truth he overbore them so that it was a wonder to all beholders, for it seemed as if it were Sir Cecil who was making enquiry upon the Committee rather than that he himself was being judged.

It irks me to tell of all the doings of the Committee and of those of whom they made enquiries.



SIR CECIL DE KIMBERLEY PREACHETH TO THE ENQUIRERS.
(*South Africa Committee Records.*)

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I will content myself with saying that the noble knights and esquires shewed such marvellous respect for confidences that they recoiled back whensoever they came near to finding out anything that was hidden. Those things that were obvious they



A MINSTREL.
South Africa
(Committee Records.)

examined closely, but by great subtlety they avoided that which was obscure. Thus they saved themselves from doing injustice to or compromising any man. I must tell you that there were some of the Committee who would have had it otherwise, more particularly Henry de Labouchere, who was minded to discover many secret things. But the music which he played for Sir Cecil de Kimberley to face was sore displeasing to Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and

Sir Michael le Noir, and Sir Richard de Webster, and some others, so that he could not win to have his way. So Sir Cecil de Kimberley returned to Africa not one penny the worse for all that he had done, Sir Joseph de Birmingham declaring in Parliament that there had been nothing dishonourable proved against him.

Sir Walter de Long and the Dogs

But many murmured, saying that evil would follow.
And so it fell about as I shall relate hereafter.

*How Sir Walter de Long would have muzzles put on all dogs in
England and of the disavour he gained thereby.*

That I should turn aside to speak of matters concerning dogs in the midst of the great and high affairs of the realm is not to be set down for trifling, for you must know that in England men and women of all degrees take much account of these animals and have great consideration of them. Indeed it is a common saying amongst them, "Love me, love my dog."

Now there is a certain grievous sickness to which dogs are prone; this is called water-madness, for it is the manner of the disease that they cannot drink, and they run violently to and fro and will bite whatever standeth in the way or cannot avoid them. And whatsoever person or animal they chance to bite, these, in their turn, are afflicted with the madness and convey it to others.

To the end that this might be remedied, Sir Walter de Long, whose business it was to have charge over all the cattle and pigs and other beasts in the kingdom, made a law that in certain cities

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and towns and shires there should be no dogs allowed abroad that had not muzzles upon their mouths. Furthermore, he decreed that those who disobeyed this law either by malice or mischance should be punished by fines.

This sorely vexed all those who possessed dogs, and they leagued themselves together saying that



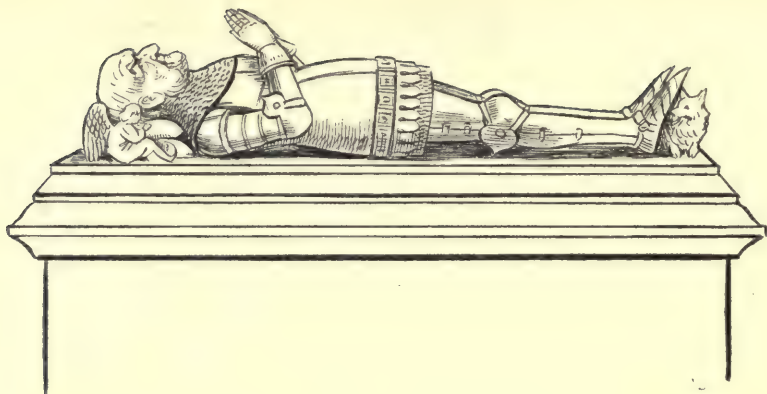
SIR WALTER DE LONG SETTETH HIMSELF TO MUZZLE DOGS.

the law was an evil one, and that Sir Walter de Long should be put down.

"Of a truth," they said, "if such things be done, there will soon be no liberty left in the land, for this fellow will set himself next to put muzzles on us. Let him keep to his cows and pigs and leave our dogs and us in peace."

Sir Walter de Long and the Dogs

Thus these people make great commotion, for it is a marvel how the English, for all that they are so indifferent to great matters which concern the realm, do make much ado about small things of no great importance.



CHAPTER VIII

How Sir Gladstone le Grand passed out of this mortal life and of the mourning thereat.

ON the nineteenth day of May in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight there passed out of the world the flower of chivalry, Sir Gladstone le Grand. A right noble knight was he, and of great valiantness, and never did there exist among the English one more courteous, nor fuller of every virtue and good quality than him.

When the Buffs heard of this event they were sorely grieved, for he was much loved by them, and indeed many also of the Blues said it was a great pity, howbeit he had withstood them so stoutly in the past.

The Death of Sir Gladstone le Grand

Thus were all Englishmen losers by his death, but the Buffs the most, for by his valour and prudence he had won many battles for them. And in a ten days after, on the Saturday, the twenty-ninth day of May, his body, that with great processions, weepings, and lamentations, had been brought to Westminster, was buried there in the Abbey.

Of the further ill fortunes of the Buffs, and how Sir Harcourt de Malwood and Sir John de Morlaix departed from the ship.

I will now speak of the fortunes of the Buffs, and shew how evil continued to befall them. I have already related to you how the Earl of Durdans would no longer endure the buffeting of the ship, in which the leaders of the Buffs were at sea, in the cross-currents, and how he returned to the land.

When the Earl departed Sir Harcourt de Malwood, as you know, took the command and thought to steer the ship in greater comfort and to have more joy and pleasure, seeing that he and the Earl had not been over well disposed to each other, and there had been disputations between them.

But after a season troubles arose again, and Sir Harcourt de Malwood was sore vexed and discomfited. Sir John de Morlaix, also, was sick with the

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tossing to and fro, and though they had at various times been contrarious one to another, he had great pity for Sir Harcourt and Sir Harcourt for him.

What counsel they had together, or how they



SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD AND SIR JOHN DE MORLAIX
WRITE TO EACH OTHER OF CROSS CURRENTS.

came to their resolve, I know not, but on a certain night in the last month of the year in which Sir Gladstone le Grand departed this life, Sir Harcourt de Malwood and Sir John de Morlaix withdrew

Further Ill Fortunes of the Buffs

themselves privily from the others and wrote letters to each other.

I will not pretend to relate all that they set down in these letters, but only the purport of them that has been shewed to me.

RIGHT WELL-BELOVED AND TRUSTY SIR JOHN DE MORLAIX.

It hath been revealed to me that there be some among the Buffs who are minded to dispute my leadership and the conduct of the ship. This does not vex nor disquiet me, seeing that I desire to hold no place the duties whereof it hath been rendered impossible for me to fulfil. It is no light thing to command such a ship, with distracted sections within and cross-currents without.

Therefore am I resolved to suffer no more of this discomfort. A release from vain and onerous obligations will come to me as a welcome relief.

HARCOURT DE MALWOOD.

RIGHT WELL-BELOVED AND TRUSTED SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD.

It doth not surprise me that you are weary of the ship, indeed it hath been a marvel to me that you have stayed so long and patiently in such discomfort and distraction. Great as is your wisdom and skill you cannot, of a surety, perform miracles or achieve impossibilities.

JOHN DE MORLAIX.

These two letters, when they had written them, Sir Harcourt de Malwood and Sir John de Morlaix left behind where they might be found in the morning, and departed in the night from the ship in a small boat, and so went on shore. Now when on the next morning discovery was made of these letters and of

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the matter set out therein, and it was showed to the others of the Buffs that Sir Harcourt de Malwood and Sir John de Morlaix were by no means on the ship but had departed, there was great commotion, and it was resolved that Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, a gentle and courteous knight, should be chosen to



SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD AND SIR JOHN DE MORLAIX DEPART
FROM THE SHIP.

command the ship, and to lead the Buffs whensoever they might reach the land again.

The Blues, when they heard of these events, rejoiced at the misfortunes of the Buffs, howbeit they made counterfeit of great sorrow, saying, "It is not well for us that there should be none left to fight against us and to exercise us in arms."

CHAPTER IX

*Of the affairs of the Church, and how the Bishops had great trouble
with certain of the clergy.*

I HAVE heretofore been silent on the affairs of the Church, but I must now speak of them that you may well know the foundation of causes that have made great discord between parties and brought sore travail on many persons of great and singular piety.

Peradventure it may seem a marvellous and strange thing that anger, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness should in any wise enter into matters of religion, but it hath ever been so, and I trow will be to the end of the world. For of a surety it is truth that there is nothing that stirreth up men to more fierce passion than that they should worship God in different fashions.

I must tell you that there were some who contended that the services and ceremonies of the Church of England should be in all ways like to those of

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former times, and that without such vestments as albs,



A CANTERBURY PILGRIM.

(*Church Records.*)

dalmatics, chasubles, and copes, the clergy were not

The Affairs of the Church

rightly attired. Furthermore they said that candles should be lighted on the altar, and incense burned, to accord with ancient ritual.

But there were others who protested vehemently that all these things were superstitious, and contrarious to the ordinances set out and provided for the governance of public worship.

These disputations were the cause of great trouble to the Archbishops and Bishops, who were sore perplexed what they should do to bring the matter to a conclusion that should not give offence to one or other of the parties.

You must know that these prelates, howbeit they are reputed of great puissance in the Church, and dwell in palaces, have but small power to make the clergy obey them. For there be some of the clergy who are minded only to obey those injunctions that they themselves think to be rightly ordained. And even the Archbishop of Canterbury, a valiant man and wise, and of great sternness when he pleases, could not altogether prevail.



CLERGYMAN DEFYING BISHOPS.
(*Church Records.*)

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in his counsel to the clergy when they might lawfully use candles and incense.

This was a business that many laymen, as well as the clergy, took great concern in, particularly Sir Harcourt de Malwood, who would have had an end made of all the ritualism in the Church, and my Lord of Halifax who would have it maintained.

Those who favoured these things said that Parliament had no concern with the governance of the Church, but only the Archbishops and Bishops thereof. This they held stoutly, howbeit these prelates sat in Parliament by very reason of their offices in the Church, and furthermore those who spoke thus paid no heed to the Bishops unless these agreed with their own judgments. I set down these things as they have been shewed to me, and as I have been informed the clergy in England continue to do as they please.

CHAPTER X

How Sir Joseph de Birmingham sought to make Oom Paul say suzerain, and to obtain certain concessions from him, and of the war that ensued thereon.

IT often happens that events turn out different from that which has been foretold, and I will now proceed to shew you how this was the case with England.

When the Blues drove out the Buffs from the governance of the realm in the year a thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, they had great joy of that victory, and one of them, a certain very superior person, Sir George de Curzon, who was afterwards made a lord, boasted that this event had already wrought a great change in various parts of the world ; for whereas when the Buffs had the ruling of England there were constant commotions that kept the realm in great discomfort and peril, now that the Blues had the power incontinent these disquietudes had ended, for it was irresistibly shewed to the world how puissant and strong was the country under the new governance.

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But that this was not so you may well believe, seeing that from the time they came into office there had never ceased to be troubles abroad, now with one country and anon with another.

So far from peace prevailing there were wars both in Africa and in Asia. Furthermore there were threatenings of war with America and likewise with France, and these were avoided by good fortune rather than by skill. There might also well have been conflict with Russia if my lord of Salisbury had not with great haste withdrawn an English ship out of a certain port in China that Russia claimed as her own. But the most perilous business was the matter of South Africa, and of this I will now proceed to tell you briefly.

Many complaints had been made to Sir Joseph de Birmingham of the burdens and oppressions suffered by those who sought gold in the territories of Oom Paul, and to become burghers therein, and Sir Joseph set himself pushfully to remedy these grievances, but with no avail, for Oom Paul had little love for Sir Joseph, having great suspicion of him, and being weary of the word suzerain which Sir Joseph had for a long time endeavoured to make him say.

Then Sir Joseph de Birmingham sent a trusty

The War in South Africa

messenger, Sir Alfred de Milner, to Africa, to strive with Oom Paul. But Sir Alfred de Milner could in no wise persuade him to give way and to yield all that was demanded of him.

Now it chanced during this season that by ill



OOM PAUL REFUSETH THE LION.
(*South African Records.*)

fortune Sir Cecil de Kimberley bethought himself that he would send a lion to Oom Paul for a gift. But Oom Paul was sore vexed at this, seeing that the lion is the emblem of England, and he refused it straightway with anger, and sent it away, saying that he already had too many lions to trouble him.

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This made matters none the better, and when Sir Joseph de Birmingham knew that he could do no more, preparations were begun in England to increase the army in Africa. This, it was believed by my



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM WRITETH A DISPATCH
TO OOM PAUL.

lord of Salisbury and the other ministers, would quickly bring Oom Paul to submission, but to their great marvel Oom Paul sent messengers demanding that the English should withdraw themselves back from the borders of his country, and if this were not done by a certain day then would there be war.

The War in South Africa

This the English, as you may well know, would not consent to do, and so on the eleventh day of the month of October in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred and ninty-nine began the great war of South Africa between the English on the one hand and the Transvaalers and Free Staters, who had joined themselves together, on the other.

The Transvaalers and Free Staters invade English territories in Africa and besiege certain towns ; how the English could not for a time prevail against them, and the reason thereof.

Whether or not Sir Joseph de Birmingham thought that Oom Paul would at the last yield to his demands I cannot tell, but of a truth the English were ill prepared for the war that they had risked. They had but a small army in Africa, and what other forces were needed had to cross the sea many thousand miles.

The Dutch, being aware of this, sent expeditions into English territories, and laid siege to three towns in different parts of the country, Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking. They were greatly covetise of taking Kimberley above all, for the reason that Sir Cecil de Kimberley was therein, and Oom Paul had no love for him for he had often withstood him

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in his plans, and furthermore Oom Paul could not forgive him for the matter of the lion that Sir Cecil had sent him.

These three towns were fiercely besieged and the English within had little hope for a long time of any assistance or succour. And even when some more of the English had arrived in Africa, and their commander, Sir Bon Vieux Buller, endeavoured to raise the siege of Ladysmith, they encountered so stout a resistance from the Dutch that they were recoiled back and suffered grievous losses both of men and munitions of war.

And in like manner Lord Paul de Methuen with his army was so fiercely opposed by one Cronje and his burghers at the Modder River, that he could not for all the valour of the English cross the river to help the garrison in Kimberley, and he lost many men in the fighting.

This was a sore surprise to my lord of Salisbury, Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and the other ministers in England, for they had hoped to have made a speedy end of the business.

But I must tell you that there were many things that they ought to have had foreknowledge of, but of which they were marvellously ignorant.

The War in South Africa

For they knew not that the Transvaalers and the Free Staters had been secretly preparing great armaments and had had conveyed to them from Europe stores of every kind necessary to equip them for war. These had been carried into the territories of Oom Paul hidden in wooden boxes that counterfeited to contain things pertaining to peace and not to war, and when my lord of Salisbury was blamed in England that he had not known of this, he excused himself by saying that he could not see through wooden planks. Thus the Dutch were so equipped that it was a great wonder to the English.

To the intent that you may the better understand how the Transvaalers and Free Staters, who indeed for the most were but peasants, were able to withstand the English, I will now relate what manner of men they are and their methods of making war.

Of a truth they are wonderfully like to the Scots who were encountered by King Edward the Third of England when he made his first war upon King Robert Bruce of Scotland.

The Dutch men are right hardy and sore travail-
ing in harness and in wars, for being a-horseback,
within a day and a night they will drive their whole

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host many leagues, so that it is impossible for their enemies to discover where they are. They are well horsed on little hackneys, and they carry with them few carts or chariots for the diversities of the mountains they must pass through.

They take with them little purveyance of food, for their usage and soberness in time of war is great. They neither care for pots nor pans nor musical instruments ; wherefore it is no great marvel though they make greater journeys than the English.

Now when it was shewed to those in England, who had the ordering of the business of this war, that the Dutch men had horses, and furthermore that they likewise had weapons, they were greatly astonished, for they had not looked for this. Indeed, they knew so little that the Transvaalers and Free Staters rode on horses that when certain of the Colonies of England made offer to send men-at-arms to Africa, they sent a message saying that men on foot were preferred rather than horsemen. But when it was seen that it was not so easy a business to prevail against the Dutch as they had thought, my lord of Salisbury and the ministers caused a great force to be assembled and put in ships to sail to Africa. And they also sent to command all the

The War in South Africa

forces in the field the lord de Bobs who was of great valiantness and wisdom and had gained great repute in many wars.



ST. BOBS AND THE TORTOISE.

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The lord de Bobs and his army arrive in Africa and defeat the Dutch, the siege of the three towns is raised, to the great joy of the English, and the events that ensued.

Things went better with the English when the lord de Bobs and his army arrived in Africa, and within a short time he had defeated Cronje and taken



MAFFICKERS.
(*Nineteenth Century.*)

him and all his force prisoners and thereby he raised the siege of Kimberley. Furthermore Sir Bon Vieux Buller was able at last to succour the garrison of Ladysmith, which had been bravely held by Sir George le Blanc ; Mafeking also, which with great valiantness had been defended by Sir Baden de Powell, was relieved and the Dutch driven away.

The War in South Africa

These things were very pleasing to the English at home, and they had great joy and tickled each other's noses with peacock feathers in the streets of London, for though the English bear themselves with patience and soberness in misfortune, they have less dignity when they give themselves to rejoicing.

After the siege of these three towns had been raised, the lord de Bobs marched his army and took possession of the chief cities and towns both of the Transvaal and the Free State, and Oom Paul fled from Africa and betook himself to Holland, where he was made right welcome, for England was in much disfavour in Europe by reason of this war. These successes were glad tidings of comfort to my lord of Salisbury and the ministers, for they had been greatly blamed when the war went not well, people saying that they were but feeble folk for all their appearance of strength, and that they had shewed no skill or foresight in the conduct of the affairs of the realm.

It was in the month of June in the year of our Lord a thousand and nine hundred that the English seized Pretoria, which was the principal city in the Transvaal, and this had been thought to end the war. But in this matter the English were deceived, as you shall hereafter know.

CHAPTER XI

How the Blues with great subtlety surprised the Buffs and worsted them, and how the war that was ended yet continued.

YOU must know that in England it is a fixed ordinance that no party shall hold the governance for more than seven years without the country shall have the right to say whether or not they desire a change. Now the Blues under my lord of Salisbury, though their time of office was not yet expired, bethought them that it would be greatly to their advantage if they waited no longer after the better fortune of war that the lord de Bobs had achieved in Africa, but challenged the Buffs that each party should appeal to the country as soon as it might conveniently be ordered.

So they went about among the people saying that now the war was happily brought to a conclusion it would be well and fitting that they should continue to govern the realm.

The Battle of Nineteen Hundred

Sir Joseph de Birmingham, who had great wisdom in these matters, sent a message throughout the land saying that all those who should support the Buffs would thereby be aiding the Dutch against whom the English had fought.

This was very subtle, for the intent was to persuade the people that if the war was of a surety ended, then the Blues deserved great honour of the country; but if the war was not ended then it would be an encouragement to the enemy to help the Buffs.

This matter was fixed to be decided in the first part of the month of October in the same year nineteen hundred, and the Buffs, howbeit they were still in sore plight, drew themselves up for the battle as valiantly as might be, but without much hope. For they could not altogether agree among themselves as to the business of the war: some held that it was a just war, but that the Blues had ill-conducted it and could never bring it to an end; others said that the war was unjust and ought never to have been undertaken.

Howbeit the Buffs did their devoir as well as they could, and though they were again overcome, yet the Blues did not prevail against them so much as they had hoped, for there were many in the

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country who were sore discontented with the grievous losses and the great cost of the war.

But though the Blues were thus confirmed in the governance yet the war was shewed to be in no wise ended, as indeed it might well have been if Ministers had taken as great trouble to strengthen and reinforce the Army in Africa as they did to discomfit the Buffs at home.

The Dutch men would not yield, even after their cities had been taken from them, and Oom Paul had fled, but continued to annoy the English whenever they could by sudden excursions. For it is the custom of the Dutch in Africa that they will not draw up in set order of battle in the open field and wait for their enemies, but they rush suddenly upon them and afterwards they scatter themselves among the mountains so that the English cannot overtake them.

There was skirmishing every day and many were killed, and prisoners taken on both sides.

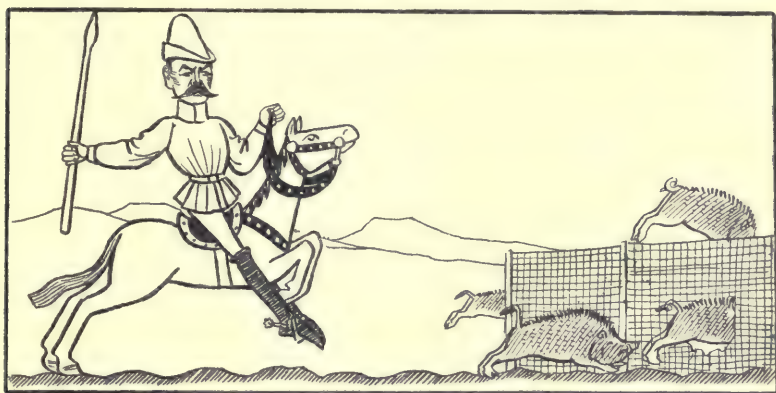
Gallant deeds were done both by the English and the Dutch, and most of the English had to lay in their harness, ever ready apparelled to fight, for they wist not when the Dutch might fall upon them.

Lord de Kitchener, who was set to command the

The War that was Continued

English host when the lord de Bobs returned to England, had great difficulties to encounter, for the Dutch, though they had but small forces, were marvellously swift to avoid the English who would have caught them.

And when he would have come to terms with



LORD DE KITCHENER GOES A HUNTING.

(South African Records.)

the enemy and made peace he was overruled, as I have been informed, by Sir Joseph de Birmingham and the Lord de Milner.

Thus the war that was ended yet continued in Africa, and for all that I know to the contrary it will still be so when you read the Chronicles that I have here set down.

Froissart's Modern Chronicles

How Queen Victoria of England passed out of this mortal life to the great sorrow of her people.

In the mean season there fell on England a heavy case and a common ; howbeit it was piteous for her children and all her realm, for the good Queen of England, that had reigned so long, so many good deeds had done in her time, and so many in trouble had succoured and comforted, and so largely departed of her goods to her people, and naturally loved them always, she fell sick in her castle of Osborne ; the which sickness continued on her so long that there was no remedy but death.

Thus the good Queen Victoria of England died on Tuesday morning, the twenty-second day of January, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and one.

And anon a two days after, her eldest son, the Prince of Wales, was proclaimed throughout the realm by heralds as King Edward the Seventh.

CHAPTER XII

How the Earl of Durdans left his furrow and rode to Chesterfield to speak to the people.

I HAVE already told you how the Earl of Durdans, when he departed from the ship in which the leaders of the Buffs were sailing in great discomfort, said that he would rather plough the land than the sea. And when he came to the shore he set himself to work in a lonely furrow, and would for a long time by no means come out from it.

But in the month of December, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and one, seeing that there was great discontent in the land by reason of the feebleness of my lord of Salisbury and those who had the governance of the realm, and that they could not make war successfully and would not make peace, and were putting heavy burdens on the people, he climbed up out of his furrow, which was now very deep, and mounting on his horse he rode to

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Chesterfield to speak to the people of what should be done.

This made a great commotion, and for the most there was great joy to see him again and to listen to his counsel.



THE EARL OF DURDANS ON A PILGRIMAGE
TO CHESTERFIELD.

He spoke to the multitude that had assembled at Chesterfield for two hours, saying that things were not well in the realm, and would not be so long as the present governance continued.



SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD AND SIR JOHN DE MORLAIX GO A-HUNTING.

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Furthermore, he said that his services were at the disposal of his country if such was the desire.

There were many of the Buffs who hoped that the journey which the Earl of Durdans made to Chesterfield, and the words he had spoken, would heal the discords in their party.

But there were some others who were sore displeased because the Earl desired that their slates should be cleaned.

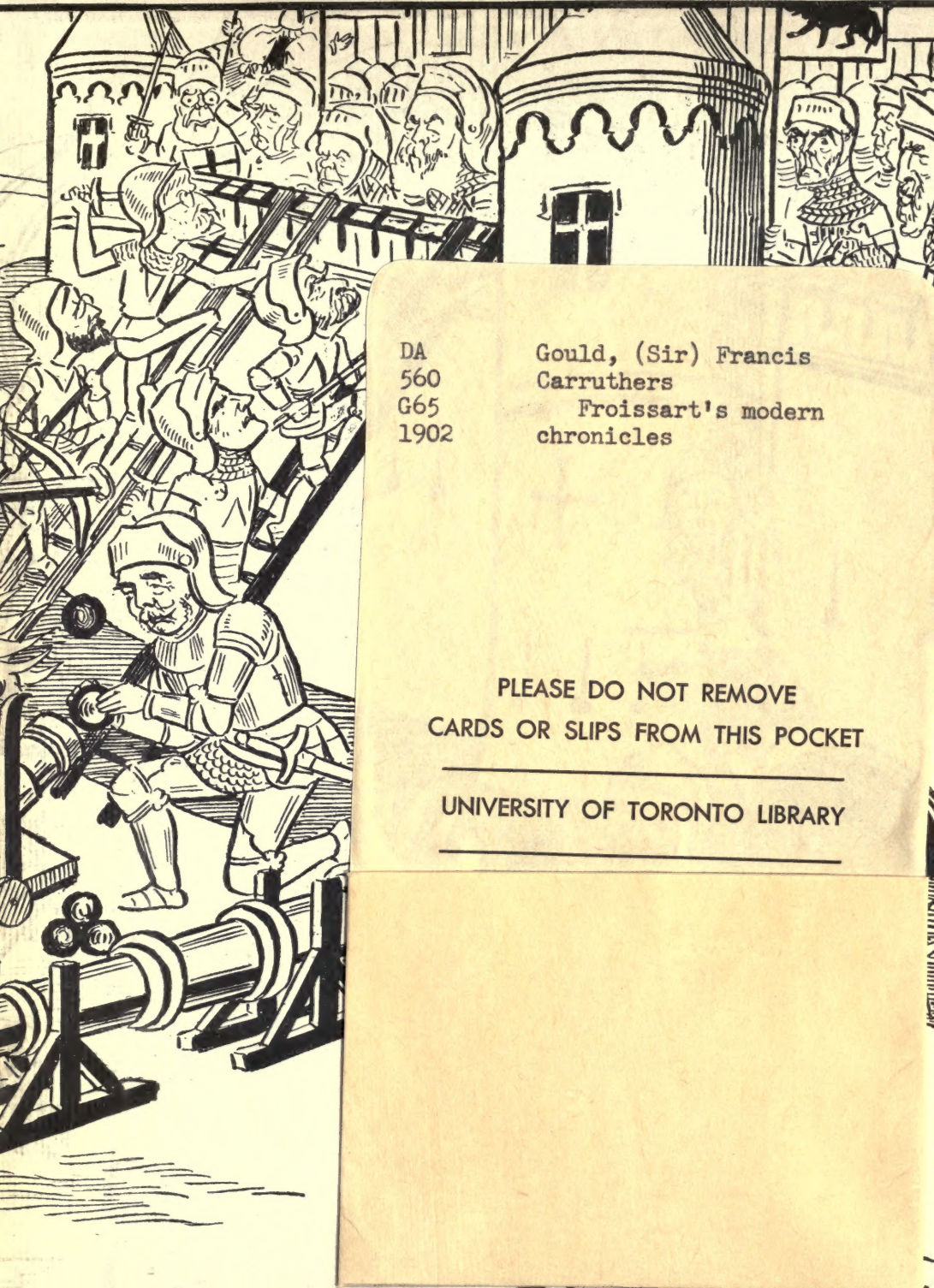
Amongst these were Sir Harcourt de Malwood and Sir John de Morlaix. They went away to the New Forest and passed the Christmastide a-hunting together.

What further fortunes befell the Buffs will be shewed hereafter.

END OF THE CHRONICLES.







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